

## BRAC: wraps up several major projects

As 2009 comes to a close, the San Antonio Base Realignment and Closure program is passing through the period of peak construction, with an estimated workforce 3,000 employees spread across the various project sites.

The rapid workload execution of the past two years has put the program on track to complete several major facilities in 2010, including key components of the Medical Education and Training Campus on Fort Sam Houston.

Construction and renovation projects on the post occupy roughly 65 percent of the installation.

The METC dining facility is being completed this month to be ready for use before the arrival of the first trainees toward the middle of

See BRAC P5



## SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Photo by Steve Elliott

Santa Claus (better known as Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center & School Commander Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw) and his elf, FSH Garrison Commander Col. Mary E. Garr, gave out bags of candy Dec. 21 to the delight of hundreds of kids in military housing areas throughout the post. Escorted by a police motorcade with lights and sirens wailing, Santa substituted a shiny red FSH fire department truck for his usual sleigh for the trip. He was also joined by Sparky the Fire Dog, McGruff the Crime Dog and Daren the D.A.R.E. Lion.



### NEW YEAR'S EVE 5K RUN

Dec. 31, midnight at  
Jimmy Brought Fitness Center

### YEAR OF THE NCO

## Soldiers earn right of passage into NCO Corps



By Lori Newman  
FSH Public Affairs

As a fitting end to the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, five Headquarters and Headquarters Company Soldiers were inducted into the NCO Corps Dec. 16 at the Army Medical Department Museum.

The five Soldiers were Sgts. Justin Baker, Gerardo Llamas-Miranda, Jonathan Ramirez, Sobner Saint-Dic and Matthew Williams.

NCOs are often referred to as the "backbone" of the Army. Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade.

"Today you are going from the ranks of being a junior enlisted Soldier to being a junior leader," said Commander Sgt. Maj. Stephen Paskos, commandant, Army Medical Department Noncommissioned Officers Academy and guest speaker for the ceremony.

"Leadership is developed through experiences," he explained. "What's going to make you an effective leader is watching great noncommissioned officers and leaders."

See NCO INDUCTION P7



## 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

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**By Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw**  
Commanding General  
FSH and AMEDDC&S

The winter holiday season is here again. It is a time to spend with friends and Family.

While this is traditionally a time of great joy, it is also a time of increased risks to our Soldiers and Army civilians. Each of us has the ability and the responsibility to keep the holiday season from turning to tragedy.

The most common hazards when driving motor vehicles are excessive speed, fatigue, driv-

ing late at night and alcohol use. Motor vehicle safety is critical to maintaining readiness in our Army. In fiscal year 2009, the Army suffered 11 off-duty motor vehicle fatalities between Thanksgiving weekend and New Year's Day.

This trend has been constant in previous years, as well. The need-less loss of life affects our mission capabilities, increases the burden on our loved ones, and inflicts a high emotional toll on Family and friends.

Before traveling this holiday season, all Soldiers must have their vehicles inspected and completed a privately-owned vehicle risk assess-

ment using the on-line Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) tool found at <https://safety.army.mil>. Department of the Army civilians should consider doing the same. Accident prevention is our responsibility. Please remain alert to hazards, whether on the road, in the home, or outdoors.

We are now in the heart of flu season and everyone must do their part to reduce the spread of influenza.

You can do your part by getting vaccinated, use a tissue to cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing, cough or sneeze into your arm, stay home if you feel sick, wash your hands often with soap

and water, and keep working surfaces clean/disinfected using common household cleaning products.

If alcohol will be a part of your holiday celebration, know your limit.

Most sexual assault cases involve the use of alcohol. Sexual assaults do not affect only women. Nor is it something that happens to people in another city. I ask each of you to practice good personal safety habits, communicate your intentions clearly and above all attend social events with a friend.

Let us play it safe this holiday season. If you become a victim, know that help is available on

our 24-hour hotline 722-4920. For more information, visit the Fort Sam Houston MWR Web site [www.fortsamhouston-mwr.com](http://www.fortsamhouston-mwr.com).

At times, the holiday season brings difficult challenges, both physically and emotionally. Should you feel that you need to talk with someone, Soldiers may contact their chain of command, call Military One Source at 800-342-9647, or visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) for assistance. We all strive to ensure the safety of the Army Family.

I wish you and your Family a safe and happy holiday season. Stay safe, Army strong!



## Garrison Commander sends holiday wishes to Families, emphasizes safety on the road, at home

**By Col. Mary E. Garr**  
U.S. Army Garrison  
Commander

The holiday spirit is in the air. Decorations are in place, parties are being planned, last minute details are being taken care of, and we are all fighting the chaos we love to hate at shopping centers and malls.

Christmas to New Year's Day is a time for celebration, enjoyment and Family. My Family and I extend our warmest wishes to each of you for a very happy and safe holiday season. As we join in the festivities with Family and friends, please keep in mind that the holidays can bring unexpected hazards that can produce tragic

results; many of which can be prevented if sound safety practices are followed.

Raising a glass of cheer in a toast to long life and health is a holiday tradition around the world. Here in Texas, 87 percent of alcohol-related traffic deaths involved someone who was legally drunk and Texas leads the nation in drunken driving crashes and fatalities.

If you plan to celebrate the New Year, plan for alternatives to driving or arrange for a hotel prior to going out. Here at Fort Sam Houston, we are conducting a New Year's Eve Countdown 5K Fun Run/Walk starting at midnight. You are welcome to come and join us.

Leaders, use the tools

available to emphasize accident prevention within your units and organizations at <https://safety.army.mil>.

Santa and his reindeer rack up who-knows-how-many miles every Christmas Eve, but for those of us who travel during the season, the perils of poor road conditions and increased holiday traffic can turn tradition into tragedy.

Prepare for the trip! Use the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) traffic cameras to view highway traffic in Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston and complete the TRiPS Risk Assessment Tool also available at <https://safety.army.mil>. Pace yourself. Organize

your time. Keep in mind that it's the holiday "season" (not "day") and allow ample travel time to lessen stress and increase enjoyment.

Christmas is the season for children, a time of big surprises and great anticipation of what Santa will leave under the tree. Make sure you select safe and age-appropriate toys for your children.

A few colored balls, lights and ornaments turn a simple evergreen into a thing of beauty. Keep your Family safe; check lights and electrical cords before use, water real trees and turn off tree lights when retiring or leaving the house.

Be careful using candles. San Antonio Families have already been left homeless this

season due to unattended candles in an apartment.

Typically, the holiday season is a joyous time but it can also be a stressful time. This holiday, please set aside some time. Create some space during the holidays to reflect and recharge.

Helen Keller once said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world can not be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

During this holiday season, I also ask that we remember our service members who are deployed in harm's way, serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in the far corners of the globe.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my Family to yours.

# 19th Special Forces Company C jumps into new leadership

**By L.A. Shively**  
FSH Public Affairs

While most people might spend a weekend mowing their lawns, the Green Berets of Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne); a reserve National Guard unit at Camp Bullis, had other plans.

That meant giving up a Saturday to don parachutes, jump out of helicopters and bid farewell to their company commander in their own unique way.

Maj. Timothy Ochsner relinquished command of Company C to Maj. Theodore Unbehagen during a change of command ceremony Dec. 19 and every available member of the unit participated in the celebration.

"We're jumping to honor our company commander who's moving up to another job," said Sgt. 1st Class Ted Heckerman, who has 800 jumps under his belt during a 32-year career.

Plus, jumping out of aircraft is part of the job. "We're required to do this as part of our proficiency for Special Forces," Heckerman said.

"To be part of this elite unit means to be airborne," said Lt. Col. Ken Chavez, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces

Group commander, as he and Heckerman checked and double-checked each other's gear while they prepared to board the CH-47D Chinook that carried several "sticks" or groups of paratroopers to jump altitude.

Known as Green Berets, the mission of the U.S. Army Special Operations Forces includes special reconnaissance, unconventional warfare, direct action, foreign internal defense and counter-terrorism. To accomplish the mission, Charlie Company is organized into 12-man Operational Detachments Alpha or "A-teams" specializing in "high altitude-low opening" or military freefall insertions, combat diving, maritime and urban operations.

Members cross train because ODAs are small and flexible, and can operate for an indefinite period of time in remote locations with little or no outside support.

"One person is responsible but everyone is capable," said Sgt. 1st Class John McIntosh, adding that micromanagement is not an option. Each trusts the other to know and carry out his job while also confident his team will back him up.

Beyond kicking in doors, ODAs work one-on-one with local authorities and individuals to help stabilize a conflicted area and its people. Language and cultural skills are paramount in these duties that often include search and rescue, peacekeeping, security, humanitarian assistance and counter-drug operations.

"We're force multipliers. Our bread and butter is to work with the indigenous forces," said Sgt. 1st Class Iverson, who explained his cadre aligns with



civil affairs groups and builds or repairs schools, infrastructure and tackles health issues in communities. In fact, health is often the highest priority for a village or district, Iverson said.

At a 1,500 feet altitude aboard the Chinook, the first of three waves of SF hooked up their static lines and made ready to leave the helicopter. Hand gestures counted down the time before the jump at four minutes, one minute, and 30 second intervals. A final green light signaled their exit.

At 12,500 feet, where breath crystalized and oxygen levels were thin, the HALO team made their jump. On the ground, friends and Family watched as the helicopter hovered, chutes popped open and men landed in the drop zone.

During the change of command ceremony, Ochsner passed the company guidon to Unbehagen and the group celebrated the growth of Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from just seven members to 100 percent strength in less than two years.

"This company is poised and prepared to go anywhere," Ochsner said during his closing remarks.

"We will continue to bring the best of Special Forces when asked to win

**Photos by L.A. Shively**  
Sgt. 1st Class John McIntosh, a member of the "high-altitude low opening" or HALO team that does freefall insertions, jumps from a CH-47D Chinook at 12,500 feet as part of a change of command ceremony for his unit, Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

hearts and minds," said Unbehagen as he took command.

"We have a very tight organization and all these men are very proud of what they do. They're three-time volunteers," Chavez said. "They volunteered for the Army, they volunteered for the Airborne and they volunteered for Special Forces.

"We're here to protect the nation and the state of Texas."

Their lawns will be mowed next weekend.



Staff Sgt. Phillip Alderson (right) acts as the safety jumpmaster for paratroopers from his unit as they leave the helicopter during a static line jump at 1,500 feet.

<b>News Briefs</b>	<b>BAMC Holiday Meal</b> Brooke Army Medical Center will serve a holiday meal Dec. 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the lower level dining facility. BAMC staff has priority from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. The cost is \$5.95/dependents of E-4 and below, \$7 for all others including civilians, enlisted and officers. Pay at the door, cash only. Military dress blues, Army Service Uniform or Class A duty uniform for personnel on duty, civilians are encouraged to wear coat and tie. Reservations are not required. Call 916-1003.	<b>Road closure</b> Williams Road will be closed just south of the Hardee Road intersection to the Aquatic Center entrance until further notice. This closure is due to construction of the GTF/AIT Barracks. Call 221-4582.	<b>NRD Change of Command</b> Navy Recruiting District San Antonio will transfer command from Commander Mery-Angela Katson to Commander Jonathan Lovejoy in a change of command ceremony held Jan. 8, 11:30 a.m. at Army Community Service. Call 221-1282 to RSVP.
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# Motorcyclists bring Christmas to wounded warriors and Family

By Minnie Jones  
FSH Public Affairs

Santa and sixty of his elves from around the state of Texas arrived on motorcycles, in a combined effort between the Adopt a Hero for Christmas organization and the American Legion, to visit the Warrior and Family Support Center, Dec. 19 and donate all sorts of goodies and gifts to wounded warriors and their Families.

“Adopt a Hero for Christmas” is the brainchild of “Honda Bob” LeClair from Houston, who began gathering donations for wounded warriors in 2006 after riding with the Patriot Guard Riders and learning about the WFSC.

“I just got a calling in my heart to bring these good men and women and their Families Christmas. So I came home early in 2006 one day, and told my family that we were going to build a sleigh, and we are were going to get some people together and bring some gifts out here, and that is how we started,” said LeClair.

This year’s fundraisers, a total of three, began in late September culminating with the Saturday before Christmas giveaway at the WFSC.

Motorcyclists traveled from Austin, Dallas, Katy, Houston and other towns throughout Texas, to San Antonio, gathering at the William M. Randolph

American Legion, Post 593 in Converse, where they joined ranks with the American Legion Riders.

Then with Santa’s red sleigh in tow, and with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus on a motorcycle leading the way, the caravan of motorcyclists traveled their final leg of the journey, down Interstate Highway 35, South to the WFSC.

There they were greeted by WFSC Program Manager Judith Markelz, and more than 200 wounded warriors and their Family members who were eagerly awaiting their arrival. During the event Markelz gave each motorcyclist a WFSC patch to wear on his or her vest or jacket to remember the event and to demonstrate the gratitude of the Center’s staff.

Capt. David Buck, Warrior Transition Battalion said, “I thought it was awesome, this year was better than last year. I think the kids were really happy. Brittany, my daughter got a big makeup kit, and my son got two electronic toys, I’m going home to put some batteries in them now – it was really nice.”

“The Adopt a Hero for Christmas 2009 event at the Wounded Warrior and Family Support Center was a joyful success. This was the fourth year performing our mission and providing a meaningful Christmas experience for our heroes and their Families. Due to the efforts of our volunteers and our



Motorcyclists traveled from Austin, Dallas, Katy, Houston and other towns throughout Texas, in a combined effort between the Adopt a Hero for Christmas organization and the American Legion, to visit the Warrior and Family Support Center Dec. 19 to donate all sorts of goodies and gifts to wounded warriors and their Families.

Photos by Minnie Jones

supporters, 78 people participated in delivering \$14,500 in gifts and spending the day visiting our Heroes.

“We are proud that our efforts put a smile on the faces of 215 men, women and children at the WFSC. We are honored to have the opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation to

them for their service and sacrifice, which protects our nation and ensures our freedom,” LeClair said.

For more information on the Adopt a Hero for Christmas organization, visit [www.AdoptaHeroForChristmas.org](http://www.AdoptaHeroForChristmas.org).



Wounded warriors and Family members stand in line waiting to meet Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus prior to picking out their gifts at the Warrior and Family Support Center. More than 200 were in attendance at the Saturday event.



Dylan Buck, age 13, concentrates on what toy to pick out of the many presents and toys that were donated to the WFSC during the “Adopt a Hero for Christmas” event Dec. 19.

## BRAC construction for BHT and TSRL buildings on schedule

By Capt. Vincent DeInnocenti  
NAMRU-SA

Construction of the future home of the Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio is underway and remains on schedule.

The Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research building will provide a 133,100-square-foot, three-story facility that will house NAMRU-SA’s dental and combat casualty care research along with the Army and Air Force research components.

BHT construction began in January 2008 and the Beneficial Occupancy Date is scheduled for March 2010. The BOD is the date when construction will be completed and the building will be turned over to the govern-

ment for occupancy.

The Tri-Service Research Laboratory is an 181,620-square-foot, single-story facility to be constructed on a 25-acre site at Fort Sam Houston.

Slated for completion in March 2011, this facility will be designed and constructed to include energy-efficient features such as natural lighting, high-efficiency chilled water systems, and energy recovery systems, and is expected to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver rating.

The TSRL facility will primarily house two research entities – the Directed Energy research portion of NAMRU-SA and the Air Force Research Laboratory Directed Energy research group. This four-acre

See BHT P6

### BRAC from P1

next year. In the spring, METC dorm 1, METC’s Medical Instructional Facilities 1 and 2, and the METC field training site at Camp Bullis are all scheduled to be finished.

By the end of the summer, Medical Instructional Facilities 3 and 5 and METC dorm 2 are also slated for occupancy.

Elsewhere on Fort Sam, there has been substantial progress on many other BRAC and BRAC-related projects.

The Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research, adjacent to Brooke Army Medical Center, is expected to begin operations in the spring. The opening of a new primary care clinic is also anticipated by the end of spring.

Additionally, a number of BRAC-related, historic renovation projects are finished or in the final stages of completion.

The project to remodel Building 2265 is expected to wrap up by September, while work on Buildings 2000, 2001, and 2007 has already concluded. These structures will provide administrative space for commands and agencies relocating to the post.

At Camp Bullis, a new Armed Forces Reserve Center building is ready to receive tenants.

BRAC projects are quickly nearing completion at local Air Force installations as well. At Lackland Air Force Base, a new equipment warehouse is being built for “Tops in Blue,” the Air Force’s traveling entertainment unit, and scheduled to be finished in the spring.

By September, both an intelligence operations center and an airfield maintenance technical training complex are expected to open for use. At nearby Port San Antonio, alterations to Buildings 171 and 254 are on pace to be completed in late summer to allow 10 Air Force and joint agencies to relocate.

At Randolph AFB, a hangar that’s being modified to support the realignment of a pilot training mission is anticipated to be ready by February.

In late spring, a new administrative center that will integrate civilian personnel offices from five other bases is scheduled to be available for occupancy.

BRAC has boosted overall military construction expenditures in San Antonio to historically high levels during the past two years. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District and the Air Force Center

for Engineering and the Environment awarded 35 BRAC and other military construction contracts for a total of \$738 million during fiscal year 2009, which ended Sept. 30.

This dollar amount comes in addition to \$1.2 billion in contract awards in fiscal year 2008. Spending on military construction in San Antonio in the past has averaged between \$65 and \$100 million per year.

The program’s overall workload between fiscal years 2006 and 2011 includes 137 contracts worth more than \$3 billion for BRAC and other types of military construction projects.

At this point, 56 contracts are complete, 51 contracts remain active, and 30 are still slated for award. In fiscal year 2010, 24 contracts valued at more than \$380 million are scheduled to be awarded.

(Source: Joint Program Management Office)



# New MRI suite opens at Brooke Army Medical Center

The new magnetic resonance imaging suite on the first floor of Brooke Army Medical Center is the first project completed there as part of Base Realignment and Closure recommendations.

The expansion was needed to handle the increased volume of inpatients expected at BAMC as a result of the recommendation to transfer all inpatient services from Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base.

The WHMC MRI unit currently sees approximately 40 patients a day during the week and an additional 24 on Saturdays.

MRI equipment is used to look inside the body without using X-rays. Under controlled circum-

stances, an extremely powerful magnetic field and radio frequency energy are used to create computer-assisted images of the body. These images are then interpreted by specialists trained in neuroradiology, body imaging and orthopedic radiology.

The new MRI suite is located near the bed tower entrance of the BAMC's west wing. Its 8,796-square-foot, single-floor space will house 17 staff members, including military and civilians. The MRI addition is more than double the size of the original MRI wing that was razed so the new consolidated tower can be built.

"It is a great pleasure for me to be here for the very first [San Antonio

Military Medical Center] BRAC ribbon cutting ceremony of the many we will have in the future," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., commander of Brooke Army Medical Center and Southern Regional Medical Command (Provisional).

"The new MRI suite was designed by an integrated team of Army and Air Force clinicians."

In addition to the increased space, two state-of-the-art Siemens 1.5 Tesla MRI units and one Siemens 3.0 Tesla MRI have been added, a first for BAMC.

The new units will allow patients to feel more comfortable and less claustrophobic during examinations. The 1.5 Tesla features twice the

scanning power and higher quality images than the old units. The increased magnet length also means that 60 percent of examinations can be performed with a patient's head outside the magnet and noise is reduced by 97 percent.

According to the Siemens literature, these units have a larger diameter opening, allowing for more headroom, leg room and elbow room. Patients won't feel like they're nose-to-nose with the magnet, allowing claustrophobic or anxious patients to be more relaxed throughout their examination.

And if a picture is worth a thousand words, the 3.0 Tesla MRI is an

encyclopedia. The magnetic field yields exceptional anatomic detail, especially beneficial for pathological conditions involving the brain, spine, and musculoskeletal system. This added magnetic field strength results in reduced scan times and improved image resolution with finer detail.

There is also a new four-bay inpatient bed waiting area, where

patients can wait in privacy.

"Radiology is a critical care in the hospital and in health care in general," Carvalho said.

"We're very excited about the state-of-the-art work led by outstanding individuals in an infrastructure that is put together in a great fashion."

(*Steve Elliott contributed to this article.*)



Col. Yong Bradley, chief of Radiology (right) and Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., BAMC commander, cut the ribbon opening the new MRI suite. Rudy Reyna (left) is the BAMC MRI supervisor. Photo by Maria Gallegos

## NCO from P1

"Watch your leaders and see which of their attributes appeal to you, if you encounter someone who is not an effective leader you should learn from that experience too," he told the Soldiers.

Paskos outlined what qualities he thought an NCO should possess.

"The first thing I think a strong leader has is a strong work ethic," he said.

"We have our Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage; and you recognize leaders who live by those values."

Paskos explained to the new NCOs the importance of drawing a line between being a leader and a friend.

"Competence is our watchword," he said.



Fort Sam Houston U.S. Army Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Houston signs a copy of the NCO Charge as Sgt. Gerardo Llamas-Miranda waits for his turn to sign.



Photos by Lori Newman

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Paskos, guest speaker for the ceremony, poses for a photo with newly inducted NCOs, Sgts. Gerardo Llamas-Miranda, Justin Baker, Jonathan Ramirez, Sobner Saint-Dic, and Matthew Williams; Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Houston and Sgt. 1st Class Rosalba Chambers.

Paskos, as their guest speaker. He talked to them about the importance of discipline and standards, which is critical to the balance they must show the troops under them," said U.S. Army Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Houston.

As part of the ceremony the Soldiers passed through velvet ropes representing their passage into the NCO Corps. Each of the Soldiers signed the NCO Charge along with Houston. The Soldiers also received a copy of the NCO Creed and the NCO Guide.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Spangler from the Fort Sam Houston Audie Murphy Club led the troops in reciting the NCO Creed.

"We insist Soldiers must live the NCO and Soldiers creeds, every day," Houston said.

"Live by the NCO Creed on a daily basis and you will be spot-on," Paskos said.

## BHT from P5

building will consolidate interdisciplinary research on the health and safety aspects of radio frequency, laser and combined stressors.

Part of the TSRL project includes a bridge (W.W. White Road

Bridge) that provides all-weather access (the area is prone to flooding) and will ensure emergency vehicle access from the main post to the TSRL lab.

The bridge was completed ahead of schedule and is now in use.

At this time, the BHT

is on schedule for occupancy in March 2010 by the dental and combat casualty care research units. The TSRL, although more than a year and half away from completion, is well on its way to becoming both energy efficient and environmentally friendly.



# 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

## FOB Courage offers state-of-the-art training for combat medics

By Lori Newman  
FSH Public Affairs

A new forward operating base that will offer realistic, state-of-the-art



Photo by Lori Newman

Soldiers from Company C, 232nd Medical Battalion provide a demonstration of a simulated combat scenario showcasing the skills they learn at the Soldier Medic Training Site during the official unveiling of Forward Operating Base Courage on March 20.

training for combat medics was unveiled March 20 at the Soldier Medic Training Site on Camp Bullis during a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the 232nd

Medical Battalion.

FOB Courage is the second and larger of two FOBs on Camp Bullis.

“FOB Courage was designed and built to represent, as accurately as possible, forward operating bases throughout the world today and to provide Soldiers a true and accurate representation of what life is like in today’s areas of operations,” said Master Sgt. James Kinser, 232nd Medical Battalion.

“The Soldier Medic Training Site was established in 1998 to provide a [field training exercise] facility to conduct realistic, hands-on, scenario-based training,” Kinser said. “Since its inception

there have been over 183,000 Soldier medics pass through here. These Soldier medics have participated in combat operations and saved countless lives in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Today we begin a new era in turning our young Soldiers into Soldier medics. The addition of FOB Courage to the Soldier Medic Training Site gives us the ability to prepare our Soldiers for combat like never before,” he said.

Using pyrotechnics, Soldiers from Company C, 232nd Med. Bn. provided a demonstration of a simulated combat scenario showcasing the skills they learn at the Soldier Medic

Training Site.

“What you have witnessed today is just a small taste of the scenarios we can now put medics through that we couldn’t before.

“Understand that this FOB is not designed to train Soldiers on how to protect or secure a FOB, rather it is a work in progress that allows us to simulate the very real situations faced by medics every day in places like Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. John Lamoureux, commander, 232nd Med. Bn.

The training scenarios are based on lessons learned from today’s battlefields and include operations based both inside and outside the FOB. The scenarios include operating a battalion aid station, dismounted combat patrols, mounted patrols, convoy operations, FOB security and reacting to both direct and indirect attacks, said Kinser.

“Remember our goal is to enable that medic who steps out of the back of a Stryker under fire, three or four months from now, to feel confident in their ability to save lives on the battlefield,” said Lt. Col. Paul Mayer, director of Combat Medic Training.

Many combat medics deploy within six months of graduation from the 68W Combat Medic Training course.

Commanding General Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center & School, addressed the Soldiers saying, “This base and this training facility will

allow you to train under conditions that very much simulate what you are going to see on the battlefield. You will train in the environment and the conditions of stress; and that is going to help you prepare to be the best Soldier medics you can possibly be, because you have an obligation. That obligation is to take care of our most precious resource, our Soldiers.”

Czerw thanked everyone who had a part in building FOB Courage, the instructors, both military and civilian; the command personnel; the Soldier medics; and Creative Building Products, the contractors who built the training facility.

Czerw then presented Gerard Muegerl and J.C. Brown from Creative Building Products with certificates of appreciation for assisting with the creation and building of FOB Courage.

FOB Courage consists of 460 barricades equaling about 3,470 linear feet, enclosing about 25 acres; nine guard towers; five bunkered checkpoints; eight 50-man personnel bunkers; two vehicle entry points and three personnel entry points.

Twelve sleeping tents hold 30 Soldiers each. The tents are heated and cooled, and have energy-efficient lights.

FOB Courage also houses the Soldier Medic Training Site headquarters, a company operations area, mock training area, hand wash stations, showers and latrines, weapons cleaning area and storage facilities.

allow you to train under

conditions that very much simulate what you are going to see on the battlefield. You will train in the environment and the conditions of stress; and that is going to help you prepare to be the best Soldier medics you can possibly be, because you have an obligation. That obligation is to take care of our most precious resource, our Soldiers.”

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By Jerry Harben  
MEDCOM

Two Soldiers from the Medical Department Activity in Heidelberg, Germany, claimed the title of “Best Medics in the Army” during the Expert Field Medical Competition at Camp Bullis, Oct. 19-23.

Staff Sgt. Bjoern J. Pietrzyk, a healthcare specialist and Sgt. Charles Smith, a radiology specialist, earned best scores in the combat medic lanes and road march, and were the overall winners for the competition. Pietrzyk and Smith represented the Europe Regional Medical Command in the event.

## Soldier Medics tested physically, mentally during Expert Field Medical Competition

Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Gutierrez, an instructor/writer for Company B, 264th Medical Battalion, carries a mannequin with simulated injuries during the combat medical lanes of the Expert Field Medical Competition.

Thirteen two-person teams were chosen by divisions, brigades, regional medical commands and other large medical organizations for the contest. Competition began Oct. 20 with a physical fitness test, obstacle course, record firing with the M9 pistol and M16A2 rifle and a 100-question written test of medical knowledge.

On Oct. 21 came land navigation by day and night (and in the rain) and the Top Warrior Stakes, where participants were tested on CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives) procedures, camouflage, placing a claymore mine and inspecting a vehicle at a checkpoint.

That night they faced the first combat medical lane, where, in a simulated combat environment, they assembled an M9 pistol, reacted to enemy fire and unexploded ordnance, used protective masks, treated casualties



Staff Sgt. Benjamin D. Buford, an instructor/writer for Company C, 187th Medical Battalion, goes over the reverse wall on the EFMC obstacle course. Photos by Jerry Harben

with head, eye, abdominal and leg injuries, evacuated a casualty from a vehicle, established a helicopter landing zone, and used a radio to submit an explosive hazard report and a request for medical evacuation.

The next day were more combat medical lanes, where competitors treated casualties with severe bleeding, performed needle chest compressions and inserted breathing tubes, carried casualties to safety and loaded ambulances for evacuation.

Finally, in the wee hours of Oct. 23 the event culminated with a 16-mile road march carrying full ruck sacks, weapons

and protective masks. “The road march definitely was the part that was the toughest. It was very physically challenging. There were great competitors here that made everyone raise their game to a higher level,” said Smith.

“It was intense,” added Pietrzyk. “The combat lanes were the best part. It was very challenging.”

The first Expert Field Medical Competition was held between two-person teams of medics in 1994. The event then evolved into individual competition, but returned to the team concept this year.

“Medics don’t operate by themselves. It’s good

for morale for them to help each other out,” said Sgt. 1st Class George Koranyi, an operations sergeant from the Army Medical Department Center & School who supervised the event.

“The objective of the event is to test them physically and mentally, push them to their limits. It tests stamina as well as tactical and technical proficiency, under stress in simulated battlefield conditions,” said Maj. Jim H. Hall, officer in charge of the event.

“Each and every one of you is a winner,” said Czerw. “I want to thank your units for allowing you the opportunity to compete.”



# NCO Soldier wins 2010 AMEDDC&S Best Warrior Competition

By Esther Garcia  
FSH Public Affairs

The 2010 Army Medical Department Center & School Best Warrior Competition winner, Sgt. 1st Class Hector Santiago-Perez, represented the Noncommissioned Officer Academy for the third year. Santiago-Perez is an instructor with the Senior Leaders Course.

"I am very proud that he kept the tradition

going for the NCOA. This is also the second winner representing the SLC," said his supervisor 1st Sgt. Carlisle Jones.

Jones said Santiago is a very determined, very intelligent individual. He is always prepared, not just for the competition, but prepared everyday as if he is competing.

Sgt. Maj. Henry Rockward, senior leader advisor for the competi-



Sgt. 1st Class Hector Santiago-Perez wins the 2010 Army Medical Department Center & School Best Warrior Competition.

Photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class  
David Louis



Staff Sgt. Joseph Hay and Sgt. 1st Class Hector Santiago-Perez duke it out during the combative part of the Best Warrior Competition held Nov. 16 to 18.

tion, said, "The competition was based on the 2010 Medical Command Best Warrior Competition scheduled March 2010 in Hawaii.

Santiago-Perez will be

representing the AMED-DC&S at this competition.

The competition, from Nov. 16 to 18, included a 50 question exam, written essay, physical fitness test, day and night urban

orienteering, weapons qualification, short range marksmanship, warrior tasks and battle drills, combatives, a mystery

event and an oral board consisting of senior leaders with questions on various military subjects.

## BEST WARRIORS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL 32ND ANNUAL BRIGADE COMBATIVE TOURNAMENT



Photo by Esther Garcia

Center, Col. Randall Anderson, commander, 32nd Medical Brigade, and Lt. Col. Scott Fisher, commander, 264th Medical Battalion, pose with competitors and personnel assigned to the 264th Medical Battalion. Receiving the most overall points, the battalion was awarded the combative trophy for the second year in a row, March 7.



By Cheryl Harrison  
ACS, Marketing

The first "It's Not Easy Being Green" Spouse's

Conference was held with about 22 people in attendance seven years ago. This year's conference, Oct. 15-16 at Dodd Field Chapel, was a hoppin' good time had by more than 60 attendees.

"It's Not Easy Being Green" is designed to celebrates spouses' lives in the military, while also helping them to strengthen community ties, form new friendships and develop skills essential to military life.

As the conference got underway, Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr.,

commander, South Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center said during his opening remarks, "I'm excited with this agenda.

"It is the military spouse who allows us to have a successful Army. Without you we can't do our mission. 'We guys' don't appreciate the sacrifice you have made in support of the success of the Family unit."

Following Carvalho's remarks, Judith Markelz, chairman of the conference, introduced the first day's keynote speaker.

"We have here among us an incredible supporter of the military,"

Markelz said, presenting Barbara Gentry, senior vice president, communi-

ty affairs at USAA.

"I feel good when I praise or recognize something good in someone else," Gentry said. "I feel good whether I'm learning something new, getting a compliment, accomplishing a goal, or the two most important things: helping others and giving love. Everyone has something to offer."

Day two opened with a welcome by Col. Mary Garr, commander, U.S. Army Garrison.

"As spouses you are the glue that holds things together," she said.

Markelz introduced the keynote speaker for the second day as the "most incredibly optimistic, motivational woman I have ever met."

Col. Thirsa Martinez,

deputy commander for Allied Health, Department of Pharmacy, BAMC, spoke with enthusiasm and optimism about her Army career and assignments.

"God puts me with just the right people every time, whether it is in Honduras vaccinating donkeys or here at Fort Sam Houston working in a medical field. Because I feel that each of us is called to give, God knows the rest."

Col. "T," as Martinez prefers to be called, moved among the group, arms waving in animation, laughing and encouragingly reminding the group, "take responsibility for your own lives, make a difference. At the end of the day nothing is



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

Barbara Gentry, senior vice president, community affairs at USAA, and Brain Dougherty, director, Army Community Service visit before the start of the "It's Not Easy Being Green" Spouse's Conference.

promised to us, so we might as well do it right."

Following each morning's session, the ladies attended classes, including digital scrapbooking, several cooking classes, jewelry making, hand stamping, container gardening, yoga, salsa dancing and sign painting.

Door prizes, all with a frog theme, were given throughout each day.

At the end of the conference Markelz said, "I say every year 'this is the last conference,' but you are all so excited to be here. And what a tremendous success the conference has been."

## AFAP Conference success story for Army, Families

By Cheryl Harrison  
ACS, Marketing

Leaders and community representatives were ready to tackle issues at the Fiscal Year 2010 Fort Sam Houston Army Family Action Plan Conference Oct. 21 through 23 at the Sam Houston Club. Over 50 issues were discussed and prioritized from housing to behavioral health, as well as recycling.

In its 26th year, AFAP provides a means to support the needs of military Families. Allowing input to leadership expresses the Army's desire to continually support and improve Families' well-

being and quality-of-life as top priorities.

The process allows Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and Families to identify and forward issues to Army leadership at all levels.

At the opening ceremony, U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Mary Garr said, "This is your Army Action Plan and we have a number of issues to discuss. The AFAP has evolved beyond self-help and it is now a formal forum for problems our Families have dealt with. We are one community, one team."

During the three-day conference, delegates, facilitators, recorders,

transcribers and issue-support persons looked at submitted issues, prioritized then discussed them.

Groups were given issues pertaining to medical/dental, community service, recycling, transportation, housing, education, and training and personnel services. Each group presented the top two to three issues considered the most viable.

During closing remarks, Maj. Gen. Keith Huber, commander, U.S. Army South said, "I hope these comments and observations find their way back to the command channel. I thank you for all the hard work and dedication."



# COMMUNITY EVENTS TO REMEMBER

## FORT SAM CELEBRATES 234TH ARMY BIRTHDAY



Photo by Esther Garcia

Fort Sam Houston and AMEDDC&S Commander, Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, NCO Academy Commandant, Sgt. Maj. Stephen Paskos, Sgt. Roald Riva, Command Sgts. Maj. Pedro Class, Antonio Abin and Howard Riles, cut the Army Birthday cake celebrating the Army's 234th Birthday.

## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



Photo by Esther Garcia

Maj. Gen. Keith Huber, United States Army South commander, salutes as the Joint Service Color Guard, led by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, presents the colors. More than 2,000 members from the military and San Antonio community attended the Memorial Day Ceremony May 25 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

## GIFT CHAPEL 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Photo by L.A. Shively

Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw (center), commander, Fort Sam Houston and AMEDDS&S joins Col. Mary Garr, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Chaplain (Capt.) Sarah Schechter and Army and civilian community leaders cutting a cake in the shape of the Gift Chapel during the centennial celebration at the chapel.

## CELEBRATING AMERICA'S MILITARY



Photo by Esther Garcia

Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal Maj. Gen. Jose Mayorga, Adjutant General, State of Texas Military Forces, with his staff, and Honorary Grand Marshal J.R. Martinez, wave to the crowd. Martinez, a wounded warrior, is now an actor in the soap opera "All My Children."

## ANGEL SOLDIERS AT WORK



Photo by Esther Garcia

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, volunteer part of their day Aug. 25 serving lunch at the SAMMinistries located on Commerce Street, an organization that supports the homeless in San Antonio.

## DOWN SYNDROME BUDDIES WALK TO RAISE AWARENESS



Photo by Minnie Jones

San Antonio native and two-time WBC Super Featherweight World Champion, Jesse James Leija, this years' Honorary Buddy, led the walk. "Buddies" Alex Hidle (on right of Leija) and Dakota Carrillo escorted Leija through the ballooned archway, along with Miss San Antonio, Frenchellen Gilliam (far right). More than 4,000 participants walked the one-mile loop at the BG Johnson track to show their support and bring awareness to Down syndrome.

## OKTOBERFEST



Photo by Tiffany Boulez

Festival goers dance to old-time polkas, waltzes, schottisches and modern German music performed by Oma and the Oompahs.

## GAZEBO CONCERT



Photo by Esther Garcia

Members of the U.S. Army Medical Command Band, dressed in scrubs, dance to the music of "Thriller," made famous by Michael Jackson, during Fright Night Oct. 25 hosted by Fort Sam Houston and AMEDDC&S Commander Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, at the Staff Post Road gazebo. Many audience members arrived dressed in their favorite Halloween costumes.

## VETERANS DAY



Photo by Lori Newman

Joaquin Faz, Richard Mann and Abel Araiza, members of the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment salute the flag during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



(From left) Brenda Berry, director, Child & Youth Services; Vincent Allen, director, Teen Center; Angelica Stewart, representing the middle school; Joseph Kauffman, representing the high school; Col. Mary Garr, commander, U.S. Army Garrison; Paul Matthews, director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Kevin Parikh, Lakeshore Engineering Services; and Sgt. Seth Sutherland, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG, cut the ribbon Oct. 7 officially opening the new center for middle and high school teenagers. The new teen center, for eligible youth grades six through 12, will provide age appropriate programs and services.

## FSH Teen Center officially opens

By Esther Garcia  
FSH Public Affairs

A ribbon cutting ceremony held Oct. 7 officially opened the Child & Youth Services Teen Center at Fort Sam Houston. The ceremony began with the National Anthem followed by an invocation delivered by Col. Karl Kuckhahn, installation chaplain. Col. Mary Garr, commander, U.S. Army Garrison; Paul Matthews, director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Brenda Berry, director, Child & Youth Services; Vincent Allen, director, Teen Center; Kevin Parikh, Lakeshore Engineering Services; Sgt. Seth Sutherland, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG; Joseph Kauffman, representing the high school; and Angelica Stewart, representing the middle school, assisted in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

“In today’s environment we have something called the Army Family Covenant and it is not just words. We recruit Soldiers but we retain Families and the only way to do that is to ensure that they have that quality of life commensurate with the service that our members are providing every single day,” Garr said. “We are collectively enhancing the needs of our kids and with the growth we have coming into Fort Sam Houston, this is one more step in that direction,” Garr said. “The future is bright, because leadership is committed to improving programs, services and facilities and I have little doubt that Fort Sam will be the showcase for the rest of the Army. It is a great place for our youth to grow, mature, and develop life skills that will serve them better in the years ahead,” said Matthews. The 20,668-square-foot center is one of the

first Base Realignment and Closure facilities to be built for the Department of the Army Child & Youth Services Division. The 60-capacity modular building will provide age-appropriate programming for grades six through 12. Designed with input from youth, the center features game systems including the Wii, Play Station 2, Nintendo DS, Dance Revolution and X-box, music, board games, art supplies and plenty of sports including a ping pong table, an outdoor pool table, and a rock climbing wall. Dodge balls, tennis balls and scooters are available for use; plus computers in the computer technology lab, an area for culinary arts, activity rooms, and a multipurpose room with adjustable basketball goals. The new teen center is located in Building 2515, Funston Road. For more information, call 241-9516.

By Steve Elliott  
FSH Public Affairs

In the United States, 911 has been the universal emergency number for all telephone services, and a key component of the country’s emergency response and disaster preparedness system for more than 40 years. However, the advent of wireless- and Internet-based phone systems has meant the old standby needed an upgrade. Mandated by the Federal Communications Commission, Enhanced 911 has been the answer allowing systems to identify telephone numbers and locations of calls made from mobile phones, Voice over Internet Protocol used by

computer-based phones and Text Telephone Devices used by deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech-impaired callers. Fort Sam Houston brought its emergency response system up to date recently with a new E911 system, investing \$750,000 and promising greater precision and faster response times on post. The occasion was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by FSH Garrison Commander Col. Mary E. Garr Dec. 15. “Fort Sam Houston is the first U.S. Army installation in Texas to get the E911 system,” said Steve Martin, public safety communications supervisor. “We’ll now be able to capture all 911 calls from

commercial numbers, post housing and cell phones throughout Fort Sam and Camp Bullis.” In addition, the new system will allow dispatchers to gain a wide variety of information about the caller as soon as the 911 call is picked up by the system. One feature of the E911 system allows for automatic number and location identification, and even brings up the entire past call history associated with the incoming number. The new system is also equipped with ProQA software which guides the dispatcher through the process of collecting vital information from the caller, obtaining the patient’s status, choosing an appropriate dispatch

level, and instructing the caller with medically approved protocols until the dispatched units arrive at the scene. “ProQA provides a script for the dispatcher to assist the caller to help them until police, fire or (emergency medical services) arrive,” Martin added. “This helps us provide the very best in service and speed, as the correct dispatch levels are usually determined quickly.” Along with an improved system comes improved training. “We have 10 dispatchers here and each has gone through more than 100 hours of training in the E911 system,” Martin said. “What’s unique about the system is that we’ll



Photo by Steve Elliott  
Emergency service Dispatcher Mike Markovitch (left) explains to FSH Garrison Commander Col. Mary E. Garr how the ProQA software helps him handle a medical emergency call.

do more than just a typical 911 responder that just takes the call and sends it along somewhere else,” said dispatcher Michelle Aguilar. Incorporated into the E911 system are mobile data terminals in each patrol vehicle, and Martin said that this feature, along with an automated vehicle locator

which comes online in the next few months, will allow dispatchers to know where all their resources are at any time. “This is really a far cry from just a year ago,” Garr said as she looked over the new system and talked with the dispatchers. “It really has come a long way.”

## E911 system provides faster responses for FSH





## NEW LEADERSHIP AT BAMC

Incoming Commander Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, U.S. Army Surgeon General and commander of U.S. Army Medical Command and Maj. Gen. James K. Gilman, outgoing commander salute the troops during the Pass and Review at the change of command ceremony June 2.

Photo by Jen Rodriguez

## MICC GAINS NEW COMMANDER



Col. Stephen Leisenring, incoming commander, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, accepts the colors from Jeffrey Parsons, executive director, Army Contracting Command during a ceremony held Nov. 4 at the Sam Houston Club. By accepting the colors, Leisenring accepts the responsibilities of commander for the MICC. Leisenring was advanced to brigadier general during a ceremony on Dec. 22.

Photo by Lori Newman



## 412TH CSB ACTIVATES TO ARNORTH



Brig. Gen. Camille Nichols, commanding general, U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command, presents the colors to Col. Jeffrey Morris, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, during the activation and assumption of command ceremony July 30 at the Quadrangle.

Photo by Lori Newman

## SWAN TAKES COMMAND OF ARNORTH, TURNER BIDS FAREWELL

Lt. Gen. Guy Swan III (left), U.S. Army North commanding general, is presented the Army North colors by Air Force Gen. Victor Renuart, the commanding general of North American Aerospace Command and U.S. Northern Command, during a change of command ceremony inside Army North's historic headquarters at the Quadrangle, Dec. 15.

Photo by Sgt. Joshua Ford



## NEW COMMANDER TAKES ARSOUTH HELM

Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser (left), commander, U.S. Southern Command, and Army Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, incoming commander, U.S. Army South, stand at attention during a ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston Club Nov. 9. Army Maj. Gen. Keith M. Huber relinquished command of U.S. Army South to Trombitas during the ceremony.

Photos by Robert R. Ramon



# USAISR celebrates Native culture in Navajo tradition

By Mike Feeley  
USAISR Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research celebrated the long tradition of military service by Native Americans Nov. 30 in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month. Organized by the Equal Opportunity staff of the USAISR, the celebration featured a keynote address by Spc. Stacey Hanebah Enriquez, a Navajo from Pinedale, N.M. Enriquez was introduced to the audience in the Navajo language by Barbara Dehnert, also Navajo, who grew up on the Navajo Nation. Enriquez and Dehnert are assigned to USAISR. In her presentation, Enriquez highlighted the famed Indian Scouts, who served from 1866 until 1947; the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I, who thwarted German attempts to intercept American message traffic; and the Marine Corps’ famed Navajo Code Talkers of World War II who prevented the Japanese from deciphering allied communications throughout the Pacific campaign. Enriquez noted, “In preparing this talk, Barbara and I thought most presentations done during this month were too generalized. Most people don’t know the history, background, or struggles of the Native American people. “People tend to think of old Indian stereotypes, like we live in a bubble



Photo by Rich A. Enriquez  
Native Americans Spc. Stacey Hanebah Enriquez and Barbara Dehnert of USAISR.

ture embraces everything from your choice of what to wear each day to the traditions, beliefs and values of your Family and community.” “Enriquez does not wear her cultural attire or speak in her native language everyday. Instead she wears the U.S. Army uniform and lives the Army’s values on a daily basis, yet keeps her values and Navajo cultural beliefs close.” “This presentation points out that military service is part of Native American heritage and tradition, while part of American military history and tradition is about Native Americans.” At the conclusion of her presentation, in Navajo tradition, Enriquez and Dehnert presented a blessing in the form of gifts to the USAISR leadership. This blessing, “to walk in beauty” is used in prayers and ceremonial songs and wishes the recipient harmony and peace of mind.



Photo by L.A. Shively  
Headman Dancer Gaylord “Bud” Lindsay spends quality time with his granddaughter, Lola Ren Baccus, during the FSH Veterans Day Powwow Nov. 14.



## BUFFALO SOLDIERS HONOR PAST, INFLUENCE FUTURE

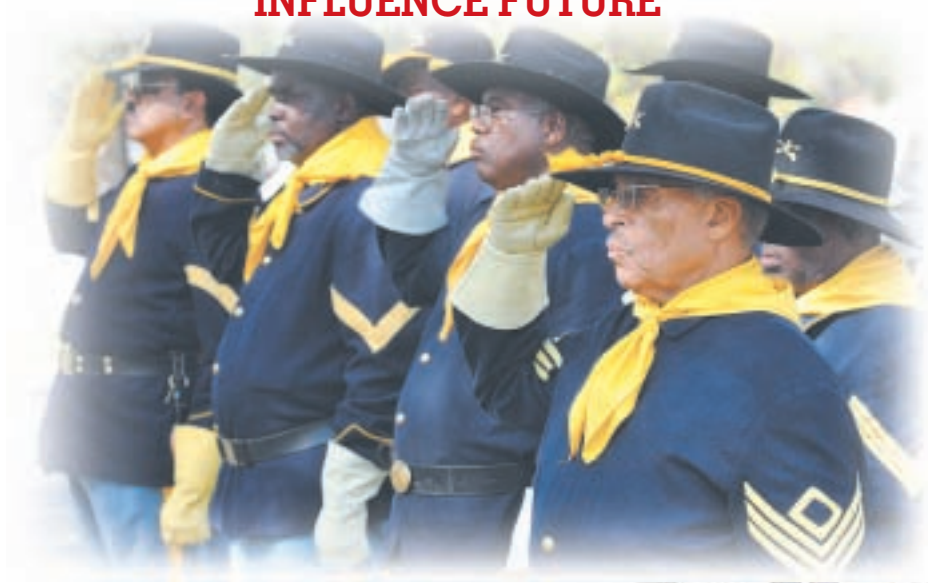


Photo by L.A. Shively  
Buffalo Soldiers render a salute during the Veterans Day ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery, Nov. 11.

## WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

(From left) Sgt. Laura Carter, U.S. Army South Ambassador 2009, Col. Mary Garr, garrison commander, and Lt. Col. Louann Tucker, U.S. Army South initiate the Women’s History month celebrations March 5 with a cake cutting ceremony.

Photo by Esther Garcia

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH KICKS OFF



Photo by Esther Garcia  
Command Sgt. Maj. Armando Ramirez, Sgt. Esmeralda Hernandez, Maj. Gen. Keith Huber, commanding general, U.S. Army South and Sgt. 1st Class Mina Vasquez kick off the month-long celebration Sept. 15 with a cake cutting and proclamation signed by San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro.

## SOLDIERS, FAMILY ENJOY TRADITIONAL LUAU

Wounded warriors and their Families enjoy hula dancing with a member of the Hula Halau Ohana Elikapeka at the luau May 20 at the Warrior and Family Support Center.

Photo by Esther Garcia





# Fort Sam Houston revives historic structures for BRAC arrivals

By Brian Dwyer  
FSH JPMO

Some of the oldest structures in the U.S. Army's inventory are gaining new life and uses under the Base Realignment and Closure construction and renovation program on Fort Sam Houston.

Construction of the post began in 1876, and Fort Sam Houston has more historic structures than any active military installation in the United States.

Today, several of these 800 buildings are part of a massive transformation of the post to accommodate the arrival of thousands of military personnel, federal employees, and new missions required by the 2005 BRAC law.

## Attention to Detail

These renovation projects include about two dozen structures, many of which are more than 75 years old and several that are more than a century old. As federal historic renovation efforts, the projects are proceeding within the parameters of the National Historic Preservation Act.

A special Army Alternate Procedures agreement is also in place that outlines more specific management practices to ensure that the visual character of the buildings is maintained. Under this agreement, project teams consult regularly with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Texas Historical Commission.

"Renovation projects like these require extraordinary effort because intricate architectural features must be preserved to achieve an appearance that is true to the original designs," said David Thomas, director of the Joint Program Management Office, which is overseeing the San Antonio BRAC construction and renovation program. "Extra care and diligence are also necessary in carrying out the work



Photo by L.A. Shively

Building 2000, originally the Station Hospital completed in 1908, will house subordinate commands and agencies of Installation Management Command.



Photo by Lori Newman

Building 2270 opened as a movie theater in 1935. Renovation of this building is slated to be completed by spring 2011.

because of the delicate state of some of these buildings."

All of the historic structures require extensive rehabilitation to become suitable for their new tenants. In most cases, existing interior partitions, electrical wiring, plumbing, climate control systems,

and interior and exterior lighting fixtures need to be replaced. Stairways, ceilings, wooden floors, structural roof members, interior and exterior doors and windows are also being repaired, refinished, or replaced.

## The Past Re-visited

The Building 600 area represents the oldest group of buildings on Fort Sam Houston. Between 1885 and 1889, Buildings 603 through 609 were constructed as officers' quarters and barracks. These structures, which are known as the "Long Barracks," are attached by common two-story walls and have masonry exteriors and wooden floors.

Building 613 is a three-story struc-

ture that is located in the middle of the Building 600 area and sits above a salyport. It was constructed in 1887 as a regimental headquarters and also has masonry exterior walls and wooden floors. Building 615 was built nearby in 1891 as a consolidated dining hall, post exchange, and gymnasium. It includes two stories with a basement and an attic, and is made of limestone walls supported by wood and masonry columns.

Buildings 603 through 609 and Building 613 will be turned into office space. These projects are currently scheduled to be finished in late 2010. Work on Building 615 concluded in the fall of 2008. It has been converted into a band facility with music rooms and assembly areas.

Building 2000 was built in 1908 to serve as the installation's new hospital, replacing the hospital that had been constructed in 1886. The building is a three-story wood and masonry structure with a basement and an attic. It has limestone

exterior walls, wooden and masonry columns, wraparound wooden verandas on the first and second floors, and a wood-framed roof structure. In 1910, two wings were added to the east and west giving the building its current "U" shape.

Buildings 2001 and 2007 were built in 1917 adjacent to the Building 2000 hospital. Building 2001 served as a hospital annex and 2007 functioned as a hospital ward. They both share many of Building 2000's design features and structural materials. Both Buildings 2000 and 2001 are scheduled to be ready for occupancy this year. Renovations to Building 2007 were completed last fall.

Buildings 145, 146, 147 and 149 originally functioned as barracks when they were completed in 1908. All of the buildings are two-story, brick masonry buildings with basements. They also have exterior porches on the first and second floors that extend across the length of the buildings, along with wooden floors and wooden interior stairs. Three of the buildings are scheduled to receive tenants in the summer of 2010, while the fourth is scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2011.

Buildings 2263 through 2266 are three-story structures that were constructed as an infantry regimental headquarters and an infantry battalion barracks between 1928 and 1929. Building 2270 opened as a movie theater in 1935. All of these renovation projects are slated for completion by the spring of 2011.

Building 1001 is among a cluster of medically related buildings that were built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

Building 1001 was completed in 1936 and served as nurses' quarters.

It is next to the original Brooke Army Medical Center, which was built in the same style.

Restoration of Building 1001 is expected to be finished by the end of 2011.



Photo by Minnie Jones

Building 2272, under renovation, April 2009, after removal of the plywood boards that hid the wrap-around porches.